

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of  
**Bednarz et al.**

Serial No.

Group Art Unit:

Filed: **March 2, 2004**

Examiner:

For: **HARD CAPSULES**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. 1.97

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313

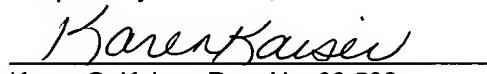
SIR:

In compliance with Applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, Applicants' direct the Examiner's attention to the publications listed on the PTO #1449 form which is being submitted herewith. Copies of non-patent publications listed on the #1449 form are being submitted herewith.

The disclosure of the above references does not constitute an admission that they are relevant or material to the claims or are "prior art" to the subject application. The citation of them is not to be construed as a representation that no better art exists or that a search has been made; they are cited merely as constituting collectively the closest art of which applicants are aware.

No additional fee is required since this information is filed within 3 months of the filing date:

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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March 2, 2004

Form PTO-1449 (REV. 7/80)		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. 3024.PHM			Serial No.
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)							
		Applicant: Bednarz et al.					
		Filing Date: March 02, 2004					Group
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	AA	4,306,059	12/15/81	Yokobayashi et al.			
	AB	4,326,053	04/20/82	Kang et al.			
	AC	4,385,123	05/24/83	Kang et al.			
	AD	4,576,284	03/18/86	Wittwer et al.			
	AE	4,591,475	05/27/86	Tomka et al.			
	AF	4,673,438	06/16/87	Wittwer et al.			
	AG	4,738,724	04/19/88	Wittwer et al.			
	AH	4,869,916	09/26/89	Clark et al.			
	AI	5,089,307	02/18/83	Ninomiya et al.			
	AJ	5,095,054	03/10/92	Lay et al.			
	AK	5,112,445	05/12/92	Winston, Jr. et al.			
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
					Class	Subclass	Translation
							Yes      No
	AL	EP 0 547 551	06/23/93	Europe			
	AM	EP 1 103 254 (English abstract only)	05/30/01	Europe			
	AN	EP 1 186 626	03/13/02	Europe			
	AO	EP 1 249 219 (English claims only)	10/16/02	Europe			
	AP	GB 2 343 669	05/17/00	Great Britain			
<b>OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
	AR		Krochta, John M. and Catherine De Mulder-Johnston, "Edible and Biodegradable Polymer Films: Challenges and Opportunities", Food Technology, Vol. 51, No. 2: 61-74, 1997				
	AS		Miyoshi, E. and K. Nishinari, "Rheological and thermal properties near the sol-gel transition of gellan gum aqueous solutions", Prog Colloid Polym Sci 114: 68-82, 1999				
	AT		Miyoshi, E. and K. Nishinari, "Effects of sugar on the sol-gel transition in gellan gum aqueous solutions", Prog Colloid Polym Sci 114: 83-91, 1999				
EXAMINER			DATE CONSIDERED				
*EXAMINER:		Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.					

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	AA	5,190,927	03/02/93	Chang et al.			
	AB	5,342,626	08/30/94	Winston, Jr. et al.			
	AC	5,620,757	04/15/97	Ninomiya et al.			
	AD	5,756,123	05/26/98	Yamamoto et al.			
	AE	6,210,709	04/03/01	Laba et al.			
	AF	6,214,376	04/10/01	Gennadios			
	AG	6,340,473	01/22/02	Tanner et al.			
	AH	6,344,346	02/05/02	Alami et al.			
	AI	6,375,981	04/23/02	Gilleland et al.			
	AJ	6,475,542	11/05/02	Soeda et al.			
	AK	6,517,865	02/11/03	Cade et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
					Class	Subclass	Translation
	AL	WO 95/34269	12/21/95	PCT			Yes
	AM	WO 98/42316	10/01/98	PCT			No
	AN	WO 00/10538	03/02/00	PCT			
	AO	WO 00/18835	06/04/00	PCT			
	AP	WO 01/03677	01/18/01	PCT			
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	AR		Vemuri, Sriram, "Measurement of soft elastic gelatin capsule firmness with a universal testing machine", Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy, 10 (3): 409-423, 1984				
	AS						
	AT						
EXAMINER			DATE CONSIDERED				
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		Filing Date: March 02, 2004					Group
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	AA	6,528,088	03/04/03	Gilleland et al.			
	AB	6,582,727	06/24/03	Tanner et al.			
	AC	6,635,275	10/21/03	Scott et al.			
	AD	6,649,188	11/18/03	Gilleland et al.			
	AE	2003/0211146	11/13/03	Scott et al.			
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
					Class	Subclass	Translation
	AL	WO 01/37817	05/31/01	PCT			X
	AM	WO 01/91721	12/06/01	PCT			
	AN	WO 01/92400	12/06/01	PCT			
	AO	WO 01/92401	12/06/01	PCT			
	AP						
<b>OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
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